

Minutes  
NPA Safety Teleconference  
August 9, 2000

Attendees:

JoAnne Gresens - Manhattan, Heather Kucharyson - Fort Collins, Gene Life - Miles City, Becky Wald - Mandan, Shane Hott and Ernie Taylor - Cheyenne, Ron Wein - Fargo, Terrie Wierenga - Logan, Chad Nielson - Brookings, Alvin Harding - Lincoln, Sue Martin - Fort Collins, Stephanie Hill - Akron

Speaker: Jim England - 3M

- Heather read the minutes of the last meeting.
- Bonnie is in Miles City this week, and will be in OWCP training all next week.
- JoAnne introduced our speaker, Jim England, from 3M. He talked about Respiratory Protection programs and the changes that have come about with the new Respiratory Protection Standards. Some highlights:
  - Per OSHA: When do you need a written respirator program? When levels are at or above the PEL, or employer can require even if below PEL.
  - Voluntary use of 2 and full face respirators still requires a written program
  - Voluntary use of filtering face pieces – don't need written program
  - Have to use NIOSH approved respirator - one-strap dust mask is not approved; only 2-strap.
  - Change on respirator selection: if requiring respirator use, you must have a sufficient selection so everyone can be fitted.
  - Use of respirators: if wearing a tight fitting respirator, there can be no facial hair between the sealing surface and the face, EVEN IF ITS VOLUNTARY. An exception occurs when voluntarily using a filtering face piece (dust mask). Employers cannot stop employees from wearing a voluntarily used dust mask over facial hair. This is a change from the old standard.
  - Change to Medical Evaluations: Employees are required to complete sections 1 and 2 of the OSHA questionnaire. Total of 55 questions on questionnaire. Do questionnaire if: Levels are above PEL, it is required by employer, or voluntarily using tight fitting respirator. This questionnaire is confidential and is to be seen only by medical professional, not the employer. It is only required one time, then after one time it's up to the medical professional to determine how often it should be done. After the first time, it could be every year, every other year, every 3 months, etc.
  - Pulmonary function tests are only required if medical professional says so.

- Training: employees need to be trained prior to using a respirator and then annual training and fit testing is needed. If workplace or responsibilities change, more training is required.
  - Fit testing: make sure respirator is correct size and that it fits. Two types of fit testing: qualitative (4 different types of testing apparatus are used: irritant smoke, banana oil, saccharin, and Bitrex) or quantitative. Only tight fitting face pieces are required to be fit tested.
  - Proper maintenance of respirators is required - check with manufacturer
  - It is required to talk about limitations for dust masks! Hand Appendix D to each person even if voluntary use
  - Still talk about voluntary use in current respiratory program - areas to be used in, copy of Appendix D, etc.
  - No required training for fit test administrator - except must be competent.
  - Storage of dust masks or air mates- bagged or drawer? Drawer or cabinet is adequate.
  - PAPR (Positive Air Pressure Respirator), such as air mates, are positive pressure respirators that have a loose-fitting hood. They are portable units attached at the waist with a battery on one side and a motor blower w/filter or cartridge and a tube to the face piece. They give you high protection, up to 1000 times. They have a higher cost and can be around \$300. Do have chemical cartridges for some, but not all. Some will take care of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides. No fit testing or medical certifications are required, but they still must be addressed in the program. You have to explain where employees are allowed to use them. Limitations of PAPR: worry about battery and need to charge it. They can accommodate people with facial hair. Guidelines for changing filters: have test tube to test filter each time so it checks airflow. It never lets particles through. It is 99.97% effective. If using for spraying pesticides, the organic cartridge is different. You can check their web site listed below to see how many hours a cartridge will last for. You need to know the level of concentration and it will tell you how long you have left. The web site is also listed in the Resources document.
    - <http://www.3m.com/market/safety/ohes2/index.html>
  - SCBA users cannot have facial hair and SCBAs requiring fit testing was not covered under old standard but is covered under new standard.
  - For questions call 3M's technical service line: 1-800-243-4630  
Open 8-5 Central Standard Time
  - Jim's phone number: 1-800-536-0683  
Mobile phone: 913-908-4190
- Progress Reports
    - Terrie Wierenga - Dust and Allergens Monitoring
- 1st draft of plan almost done - there were problems trying to decide how to go about it. Will be out by the end of the week.
- Next Telecon: August 23 at 9:00 to go over draft

- Gene Life - Noise  
People are doing noise testing. Bonnie has the 4 new dosimeters. Becky has been using 2 for about 2 weeks. Check out web site for worksheet and to add your data.
- JoAnne - Respiratory Protection  
The next teleconference is tomorrow at 9:00 MDT. She hopes to get the template out soon.
- Occupant Emergency  
Still need to form a team.
- Ergonomics  
Nothing to report
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:00.